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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 45-85 without prejudice or disclaimer.
Please add all new claims 86-111.

86. (New) An **impact driver** for driving an **elongate object** into a **body** in any plane from the horizontal to the vertical, said **impact driver** comprising
   a) **chassis,**
   b) a **ram** supported by said **chassis** in a manner allowing rectilinear movement of said **ram** relative to said **chassis,**
   c) a **linear induction motor** including
      (i) a **stator** mounted to said **chassis,** and
      (ii) a **linear induction motor reaction member** composed of at least one plat of an electrically conductive material mounted to said **ram,**
      (iii) the **stator** being positioned to operatively interact with **linear induction motor reaction member** to accelerate the **reaction member** substantially along a length of movement of the **reaction member** to move the **reaction member**
         - from a **retracted position** to **an impact position,** and
         - from the **impact position** to the **retracted position,**
   d) whereby, when the said **reaction member** is accelerated to move from said **retracted position** to said **impact position,** the **ram** is accelerated at an increasing rate throughout its movement by the **reaction member** to substantially increase its kinetic energy for causing an impact force to be imparted on said **elongate object** in the elongate direction thereof.

87. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 86, wherein said **ram** includes an **impact head** for receiving said **impact force** from the **ram** and transmitting it to an **elongate object.**

88. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 87, wherein said **ram** includes an elongate ram support structure, said **ram support structure** having a first and second ends, and wherein said **impact head** is provided at a first end of said **ram support structure.**

89. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 88, wherein said **reaction member** is of an elongate configuration, and is secured to the **ram support structure** to extend in the elongate direction of said **ram support structure** between said first and second ends thereof.

90. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 87, wherein said **impact head** is of a robust and substantially solid material suitable for the transferal of an impact from the **ram** to the **elongate object.**

91. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 86, wherein said **chassis** provides **bearings** which locate and support said **ram** for rectilinear movement within said **chassis**.

92. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 91, wherein said **bearings** are located within a **casing** of said **chassis**, said **ram** also at least in part provided and retained by said **bearings** within said **casing** of said **chassis**.

93. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 91, wherein said **stator** of said **linear induction motor** is positioned within the **casing** of said **chassis**.

94. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 86, wherein said **chassis** includes a **casing** defining an elongate chamber within which at least part of said **ram** is able to move in the elongate direction.

95. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 86, wherein the relative position of said **ram** at least when in one position with respect to said **chassis** is able to be sensed by an **electronic sensor**.

96. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 95, wherein said **electronic sensor** is a limit sensor for detecting the reaching of the **ram** to or proximate to its **retracted position**.

97. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 95, wherein said **electronic sensor** is in communication with a controller for controlling of the **linear induction motor**, in order for the **electronic sensor** to actuate the controller to accelerate the said **ram** from the **retracted position** to the **impact position**.

98. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 86, wherein said **stator** is controlled to accelerate the **ram** from the **retracted position** to the **impact position** at a rate different and most usually greater than from the **impact position** to the **retracted position**.

99. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 86, wherein an **anvil assembly** is positioned relative to said **chassis** to hold an **anvil** in alignment to the rectilinear direction of movement of said **ram** to be interposed between the head of said **elongate object** and said **impact head** for the purpose of providing a cushioning to the impact force of said **ram** applied to said **elongate object**.

100. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 99, wherein said **anvil assembly** is in a translatable engagement with said **chassis**.

101. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 99, wherein said **anvil assembly** presents said **anvil** at a location remote from said **chassis**.

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102. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 86, wherein said **chassis** is mounted to a **support structure**.

103. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 99, wherein said **chassis** is mounted to a **support structure** and said **anvil assembly** is in a translatable engagement with said **support structure** to permit its movement relative thereto and parallel to the rectilinear direction of movement.

104. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 86, wherein said **support structure** includes a **mounting arrangement** for mounting the **chassis** to a **vehicle**.

105. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 104, wherein said **mounting arrangement** allows said **support structure** to rotate relative to said **vehicle**.

106. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 104, wherein said **mounting arrangement** allows said **support structure** to translate relative to said **vehicle**.

107. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 86, wherein said **chassis** is mounted to a **support device** selected from one of a vehicle, a vessel and a derrick.

108. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 107, wherein said **chassis** is connected to the **support device** by an articulated mounting arrangement configured for mounting the **chassis** to the **support device** in an articulated manner.

109. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 86, wherein the **impact driver** is a pile driver.

110. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 86, wherein when said **reaction member** is accelerated to move from said **retracted position** to said **impact position**, the acceleration of the said **ram** is enhanced by the addition of a gravitational force component that increases from zero in the horizontal plane to a maximum additional acceleration of $9.81 m/s^2$ in the vertical plane.

111. (New) The **impact driver** as claimed in claim 86, wherein said **elongate object** can be extracted from said **body** by nature of the following arrangement:

a) said **impact position** and said **retracted position** are reversed with respect to said **elongate object** so that the said **ram** is accelerated away from said **elongate object**,

b) said **ram** includes an engagement arrangement for engaging with said **elongate object** to transmit forces from the **linear induction motor** to the **elongate object**, thereby to extract the **elongate object**; and

c) the movement of said **ram** being controllable though said **linear induction motor** to reduce said **ram's** impact on said **elongate object** to a lesser extent when said **ram** returns to a more proximate position to said **elongate object** between extraction strokes.